

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INT-05 GSA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00

AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-11 /111 W

-----071117 281814Z /45

P R 281753Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9774

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11911

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, IC, GW

SUBJECT: FRG POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL

(ITC) MEETING, LONDON, JULY 11-14

REF: (A) STATE 158743 (B) BONN 6095

1. IN BRIEF TALK WITH MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS OFFICIAL, EMBOFF WAS TOLD FRG POSITION ON PRODUCER PROPOSAL TO RAISE TIN PRICE RANGE AT JULY MEETING OF ITC WAS NOT YET CLEAR. FRG BELIEVES THERE IS NO VALID ECONOMIC ARGUMENT FOR INCREASING PRICES AT THIS TIME, AND FRG WILL TAKE THIS LINE IN INTRA-EC WORKING GROUP MEETINGS; HOWEVER, CIRCUMSTANCES COULD FORCE FRG TO AGREE TO AN INCREASE (HOW MUCH IS NOT CLEAR), IF IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD OTHERWISE BECOME ISOLATED.

2. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT IF THE U.S. HOLDS OUT STRONGLY AGAINST AN INCREASE, THE FRG WOULD PROBABLY SUPPORT US DOWN TO THE WIRE, EVEN IN THE FACE OF AGREEMENT TO AN INCREASE ON THE PART OF OTHER EC MEMBERS AND OTHER CONSUMERS. SIMILARLY, AT THE FIRST SIGN OF HESITATION ON THE PART OF THE US, THE FRG WOULD PROBABLY ACQUIESCE IN A
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CONSENSUS OF THE EC TO GO ALONG WITH AN INCREASE.

3. WE EXPECT THE FRG POSITION TO REMAIN FLEXIBLE UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE. THEIR PRESENT QUANDARY IS COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT THERE WAS NO BONN-BASED REPRESENTATIVE SENT TO THE ITC ECONOMIC AND PRICE REVIEW PANEL MEETING IN BANGKOK, AND THE REPORT SENT BACK BY THE GERMAN

EMBASSY (BANGKOK) OBSERVER WAS INCOMPLETE. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE PROVIDED A SUMMARY OF REFTEL (A) TO ECONOMICS MINISTRY.

4. EMBOFF INDICATED THAT HE WOULD KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH MINISTRY OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY STIEPEL (WHO WILL REPLACE FEHIING AT THE JULY ITC MEETING) AND LANG. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY ADVICE ON US POSITION AT JULY ITC MEETING FOR MOST EFFECTIVE COORDINATION WITH FRG OFFICIALS.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TIN, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN11911
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780267-1014
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780613/aaaaaldw.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 785ae57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 158743, 78 BONN 6095
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2184637
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL (ITC) MEETING, LONDON, JULY 11-14
TAGS: EMIN, IC, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/785ae57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014